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1.-6. (canceled)

IN THE CLAIMS

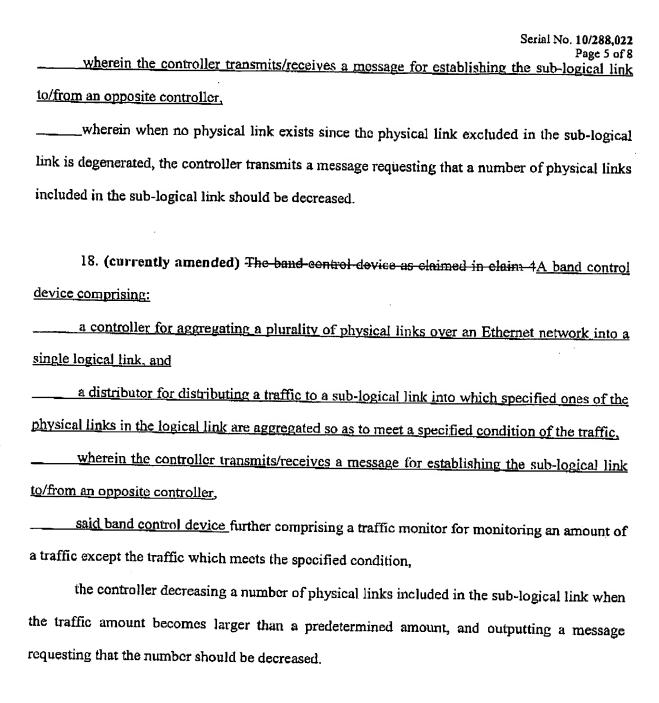
7. (currently amended) The band control device as claimed in claim 4A band control
device comprising:
a controller for aggregating a plurality of physical links over an Ethernet network into a
single logical link, and
a distributor for distributing a traffic to a sub-logical link into which specified ones of the
physical links in the logical link are aggregated so as to meet a specified condition of the traffic,
wherein the controller transmits/receives a message for establishing the sub-logical link
to/from an opposite controller,
wherein the controller returns a message for establishing a sub-logical link port
established based on the received message as a return sub-logical link port.
8. – 10. (canceled)
11. (currently amended) The band control device as claimed in claim 5A band control
device comprising:
a controller for aggregating a plurality of physical links over an Ethernet network into a
single logical link, and
a distributor for distributing a traffic to a sub-logical link into which specified ones of the
physical links in the logical link are aggregated so as to meet a specified condition of the traffic,
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Serial No. 10/288,022 Page 3 of 8 wherein the controller transmits/receives a message for establishing the sub-logical link to/from an opposite controller. wherein the controller relays the message to a subsequent apparatus, wherein when a band of the sub-logical link requested by the received message is larger than an assignable band of a sub-logical link in the subsequent apparatus, the controller discards the message and returns an error message. 12. (currently amended) The band control device as claimed in-claim 5A band control device comprising: a controller for aggregating a plurality of physical links over an Ethernet network into a single logical link, and a distributor for distributing a traffic to a sub-logical link into which specified ones of the physical links in the logical link are aggregated so as to meet a specified condition of the traffic. wherein the controller transmits/receives a message for establishing the sub-logical link to/from an opposite controller, wherein the controller relays the message to a subsequent apparatus, said band control device further comprising a scheduler for transmitting a traffic, with a priority control, to the subsequent apparatus, the controller instructing the scheduler to transmit the traffic which meets the specified condition with a priority, and transmitting a message notifying a request band of the traffic to the subsequent apparatus.

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13. - 15. (canceled)

16. (currently amended) The band-control device as claimed in claim 4-A band control
device comprising:
a controller for aggregating a plurality of physical links over an Ethernet network into a
single logical link, and
a distributor for distributing a traffic to a sub-logical link into which specified ones of the
physical links in the logical link are aggregated so as to meet a specified condition of the traffic,
wherein the controller transmits/receives a message for establishing the sub-logical link
to/from an opposite controller.
wherein when the physical link included in the sub-logical link degenerates and no
physical link substituted for the degenerated physical link can be secured, the controller transmits
a message requesting that a number of physical links included in the sub-logical link should be
decreased.
17. (currently amended) The band control device as claimed in claim-4 A band control
device comprising:
a controller for aggregating a plurality of physical links over an Ethernet network into a
single logical link, and
a distributor for distributing a traffic to a sub-logical link into which specified ones of the
physical links in the logical link are aggregated so as to meet a specified condition of the traffic.



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19. (original) The band control device as claimed in claim 16, 17, or 18 wherein when receiving the number decrease request message, the controller decreases the number of physical links included in a corresponding sub-logical link.

- 20. (original) The band control device as claimed in claim 19 wherein the controller further relays the number decrease request message to a subsequent apparatus.
- 21. (currently amended) The band control device as claimed in claim 4 A band control device comprising:

 a controller for aggregating a plurality of physical links over an Ethernet network into a single logical link, and

 a distributor for distributing a traffic to a sub-logical link into which specified ones of the physical links in the logical link are aggregated so as to meet a specified condition of the traffic, wherein the controller transmits/receives a message for establishing the sub-logical link to/from an opposite controller,

 wherein when receiving a message requesting an establishment of a sub-logical link different from the sub-logical link already established and no requested band can be secured, the controller returns an error message.
- 22. (original) The band control device as claimed in claim 21 wherein when receiving the error message, a source controller of the establishment request message transmits again the establishment request message after a standby for a fixed period.

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23. - 24. (canceled)